

I am a consumer of digital content, and I oppose the proposed Broadcast Flag. If this is accepted, it will be another blow to the fair use rights we enjoy. The Broadcast Flag proposal assumes at its core that I, the consumer, am a criminal waiting to commit a crime (such as digitally recording a television program in its entirety and redistributing it without the permission of the creator), and that I could not possibly have a legitimate use for content copying technology, protected under fair use (i.e. using a portion of said program in a college lecture, or even recording it in its entirety for my own personal, exclusive use). This proposal will likely stifle innovation and serve little purpose other than give even more control to large content creating media conglomerates while taking that control away from the people. I say it will serve little purpose because those who choose to commit copyright infringement will likely (almost assuredly) find a way to continue to break the law. I am not suggesting that we strike all laws from the books because people will commit crimes anyway; rather, I feel that this proposal will have a more negative than positive effect on the public good. Laws against copyright infringement are already in place, and should be enforced; I don't wish to have my rights taken away just because someone else chooses to break the law.